

Chapter 4

1. Fragmented sentences
2. Advantage and Disadvantage essay
3. Modals
4. Passive

Welcome to Chapter 4 - you have almost reached the end! In this chapter we will study fragmented sentences (you have studied this a little already) and you will study how to write an advantage and disadvantage essay. So far you have done really well and learnt a lot, so don't forget to review the past chapters when you have time.

1. Fragmented Sentences

This is a common problem for many students, so let's look at it in a little more detail and practice. Okay, so, 'fragmented sentences' are sentences that are broken. Just like the heart on the right; it is broken and needs to be completed. This is very similar to chapter 1 and the lesson on Subject, Verb, Object, but it is worth looking at again. Check out the examples below.

- A. A movie with good actors and an interesting, but complex story line.*
- B. Can find a good job with a university degree.*
- C. If you want to be a good English speaker.*



The sentences look ok, but they are missing something that will make them perfect! Can you guess what they are missing?

A fragmented sentence is created, because it is missing something important. It is important, because it helps the reader to understand the sentence more. Let's look at them again.

Sentence 'A' is missing a verb

A movie with good actors and an interesting, but complex story line.

I **saw** a movie with good actors and an interesting, but complex story line.

Sentence 'B' is missing a subject (he, she, you, it...)

B. Can find a good job with a university degree. (Who can?)

You can find a good job with a university degree.

The students can find a good job with a university degree.

Sentence 'C' is not a complete idea.

C. If you want to be a good English speaker... (How can I be a good speaker?)

If you want to be a good English speaker, **you should study hard.**

Step 1 - Fragmented sentences are quite common, but they are easy to fix. Let's look at a few practice sentences. Look for a *missing verb*, a *missing subject*, or an *incomplete idea*.

1. Went to the cafe. _____
2. Before we went to class. _____
3. Because the party was so fun. _____
4. When I pass this course. _____
5. Was finished on time. _____
6. Three cups of coffee. _____
7. While I was working. _____
8. Haven't been to America. _____
9. A great big animal. _____
10. As soon as you see him. _____
11. Such as education, friendship and new experiences. _____
12. Woke up early. _____
13. Because we have too much homework. _____
14. A fire last night. _____
15. A great place to relax. _____

The examples above give you some common 'fragmented sentences' that can often be found in your writing. Now, let's look at how to avoid making these mistakes.

Step 2 - Some sentences need a *verb*, or a *complete thought* - these can be difficult and will take time to master. There are, however, sentences that need *two parts*, especially when you use the words below. The first one has been done for you. Try to finish the others.

1.

If there are lots of people in my class. - **Fragmented sentence**

If there are lots of people in my class, I'll be able to make new friends.

I'll be able to make new friends **if** there are lots of people in my class.

2.

When I feel really tired. - **Fragmented sentence**

When I feel really tired, I usually drink some coffee.

I usually drink some coffee **when** _____.

3.

Because there are too many tests. - **Fragmented sentence**

Because there are too many tests, _____.
_____, **because** there are too many tests.

4.

While the teacher was talking. - **Fragmented sentence**

_____, I chatted to my friends on Whatsapp.
_____ **while** _____

5.

As soon as I got my exam results. - **Fragmented sentence**

As soon as _____, _____.
_____ **as soon as** _____.

6.

Before I came to Malaysia. - **Fragmented sentence**

Before _____, _____.
_____ **before** _____.

7.

After I finished my English course. - **Fragmented sentence**

After _____, _____.
_____ **after** _____.

Something to remember

One thing to remember is that if you use **if**, **when**, **because**, **while**, **as soon as**, **before** and **after** at the beginning of the sentence, you will need to put a **comma** to separate the two ideas. Look at the examples below.

Example 1

Before you go to sleep tonight, (**comma**) make sure you set your alarm for 8am.

Make sure you set your alarm for 8am (~~no comma~~) before you go to sleep tonight.

Example 2

If you can get a good education, (**comma**) you will be able to find a good job.

You will be able to find a good job (~~no comma~~) if you can get a good education.

Because is the exception. If **because** starts the sentence or is in the middle, it needs a comma.



Studying Abroad

These days many students go abroad to study at schools and universities. These students believe that they can get a better experience by studying abroad, such as **learning language skills** and **making new friends** from other countries. However, studying abroad can sometimes be **expensive** and students may encounter problems from the **local culture**. Therefore, the advantages and disadvantages of studying abroad will be discussed in this essay.



Main Idea 1 Advantages - Learning language skills and making new friends.

There are many advantages of studying abroad. One of these advantages would be **language skills**. When a student moves to a new country he or she would be able to learn the language of the country. This new skill might help the person get a better job in the future. Furthermore, the student studying abroad would also be able to **meet new people** and learn about their culture. This would give the student a better understanding of the world. From these two advantages we can see studying abroad can do a lot for a student's future

Main Idea 2 Disadvantage - Expensive and problems with local culture.

There are, however, disadvantages. One such disadvantage is the **expense**. Studying abroad often costs more than studying in your home country. Tuition fees, accommodation and general living expenses all become increased when a student lives abroad. Additionally, if the **local culture** is different from the student's own, they may find it difficult to adapt to the new ways of living. In short, when a student lives abroad they have to consider the expense and local culture before moving.

Conclusion: Summarise main idea 1 & 2, Opinion and Recommendation.

This essay has discussed the advantages of studying abroad, which are **language skills** and **meeting new people**, and the disadvantages of living abroad, which are **expense** and **local culture**. In my opinion, I believe that studying abroad is a good experience to learn something that you may not learn from your home country. New language skills and learning about new cultures from meeting people, will help any student to get a better job in the future. If a student has thought about the expense and learned about the culture before going, I think they would have a life changing experience. Therefore, I think more people should study abroad as it will help them to broaden their horizons and have a different outlook on life.

Structure breakdown

Advantages Main Ideas - Languages Skills & Meeting New People

Disadvantages Main Ideas - Expense & Local Culture.

Introduction

Topic Sentence - These days many students go abroad to study at colleges of universities.

Supporting sentences - These students believe that they can get a better experience by studying abroad, such as learning [language skills](#) and [making new friends](#) from other countries. However, studying abroad can sometimes be [expensive](#) and students may encounter problems from the [local culture](#).

Thesis statement - Therefore, the advantages and disadvantages of studying abroad will be discussed in this essay.



Main Body 1

Paragraph Introduction Sentence - There are many advantages of studying abroad.

First Main Idea - One of these advantages would be [language skills](#). When a student moves to a new country he or she would be able to learn the language of the country. This new skill might help the person get a better job in the future.

Second Main Idea - Furthermore, the student studying abroad would also be able to [meet new people](#) and learn about their culture. This would give the student a better understanding of the world.

Paragraph Concluding Sentence - From these two advantages we can see studying abroad can do a lot for a student's future

Main Body 2

Transition sentence from advantage to disadvantage - There are, however, disadvantages.

Main Idea 1 - One such disadvantage is the **expense**. Studying abroad often costs more than studying in your home country. Tuition fees, accommodation and general living expenses all become increased when a student lives abroad.

Main Idea 2 - Additionally, if the **local culture** is different from the student's own, they may find it difficult to adapt to the new ways of living.

Paragraph Concluding sentence - In short, when a student lives abroad they have to consider the expense and local culture before moving.

Conclusion

Summary Sentence - This essay has discussed the advantages of studying abroad, which are **language skills** and **meeting new people** and the disadvantages of living abroad, which are **expense** and **local culture**.

Opinions - In my opinion, I believe that studying abroad is a good experience to learn something that you may not learn from your home country. New language skills and learning about new cultures from meeting people will help any student to get a better job in the future.

Recommendations & Suggestions - If a student has thought about the expense and learned about the culture before going, I think they would have a life changing experience. Therefore, I think more people should study abroad as it will help them to broaden their horizons and have a different outlook on life.

Answers

Step 1 - Possible fragmented sentences answers

1. **I** went to the cafe.
2. Before we went to class, **we finished our homework**.
3. Because the party was so fun, **I really want to have another one**.
4. When I pass this course, **I am going to take a nice long break**.
5. **The project** was finished on time.
6. **They drunk** three cups of coffee.
7. While I was working, **I fell asleep at my desk**.
8. **I** haven't been to America.
9. **There is** a great big animal.
10. As soon as you see him, **tell him I need to speak to him**.
11. **Many things in my life are important** such as education, friendship and new experiences.
12. **My sister** woke up early.
13. Because we have too much homework, **I can't get to sleep early**.
14. **There was** a fire last night.
15. **This company is** a great place to relax.

Step 2 - Possible answers

2.

When I feel really tired. - **Fragmented sentence**

When I feel really tired, I usually drink some coffee.

I usually drink some coffee **when** I feel tired.

3.

Because there are too many tests. - **Fragmented sentence**

Because there are too many tests, *I sometimes get very stressed*.

I sometimes get very stressed, **because** there are too many tests.

4.

While the teacher was talking. - **Fragmented sentence**

While the teacher was talking, I chatted to my friends on Whatsapp.

I chatted to my friends on Whatsapp **while** the teacher was talking.

5.

As soon as I got my exam results. - **Fragmented sentence**

As soon as I got my exam results, I called my parents to tell them the good news.
I called my parents to tell them the good news **as soon as** I got my exam results.
6.

Before I came to Malaysia. - **Fragmented sentence**

Before I came to Malaysia, I was nervous about living in a new country .
I was nervous about living in a new country **before** I came to Malaysia.
7.

After I finished my English course. - **Fragmented sentence**

After I finished my English course, I went travelling in Thailand.
I went travelling in Thailand **after** I finished my English course.